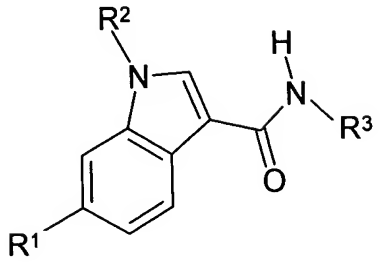
What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula I:



I

wherein R^1 is halo, nitro, amino, cyano, methyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, trifluoromethoxy, methylthio, methylsulfinyl, or methylsulfonyl;

R^2 is lower alkyl having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms or $-CH_2-R^4$ wherein R^4 is cycloalkyl having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms; and

R^3 is an unsubstituted or mono-substituted five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring connected by a ring carbon atom to the amine group shown, which five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring contains from 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from sulfur, oxygen or nitrogen, with one heteroatom being nitrogen which is adjacent to the connecting ring carbon atom; said mono-substituted heteroaromatic ring being mono-substituted at a position on a ring carbon atom other than adjacent to said connecting carbon atom with a substituent selected from the group consisting of methyl, trifluoromethyl, chloro, bromo, nitro, cyano,

$-(CH_2)_n-OR^5$; $-(CH_2)_n-\overset{\overset{O}{\|}}{C}-OR^5$;

$-(CH_2)_n-\overset{\overset{O}{\|}}{C}-NHR^5$; and $-(CH_2)_n-NHR^5$;

wherein n is 0 or 1;

R^5 is hydrogen or lower alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is halo, nitro, methyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, methylthio, or methylsulfonyl.

3. The compound according to claim 2, wherein halo is fluoro, chloro or bromo.

4. The compound according to claim 3, wherein halo is chloro.

5. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is lower alkyl having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms.

6. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is $-CH_2-R^4$ wherein R^4 is cycloalkyl having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms.

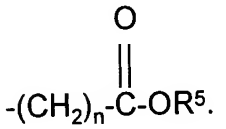
7. The compound according to claim 6, wherein R^4 is cyclobutyl.

8. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^3 is an unsubstituted or mono-substituted five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring which contains from 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from sulfur and nitrogen.

9. The compound according to claim 1, wherein said unsubstituted or mono-substituted five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring is thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl and pyrazolyl.

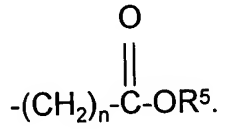
10. The compound according to claim 9, wherein said ring is pyridinyl or thiazolyl.

11. The compound according to claim 1, wherein said mono-substituted five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring is substituted with methyl, trifluoromethyl, chloro, bromo, or



12. The compound according to claim 11, wherein R^5 is lower alkyl having 1 or 2 carbon atoms.

13. The compound according to claim 9, wherein said mono-substituted heteroaromatic ring is substituted with methyl, trifluoromethyl, chloro, bromo, or



14. The compound according to claim 9, wherein said ring is unsubstituted.

15. The compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

1-isopropyl-6-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;

1-isopropyl-6-trifluoromethyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;

1-isopropyl-6-nitro-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;

6-hydroxy-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;

1-isopropyl-6-methoxy-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;

1-isopropyl-6-methylsulfanyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;

1-isopropyl-6-methanesulfonyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;

6-fluoro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;

6-bromo-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide; and

6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide.

16. The compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

6-chloro-1-ethyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;

6-chloro-1-propyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;

1-butyl-6-chloro-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;

6-chloro-1-isobutyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;

6-chloro-1-pentyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide; and

6-chloro-1-(3-methyl-butyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide.

17. The compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

6-chloro-1-cyclopropylmethyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;

6-chloro-1-cyclobutylmethyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;

6-chloro-1-cyclopentylmethyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide; and

6-chloro-1-cyclohexylmethyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide.

18. The compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid [1,3,4]thiadiazol-2-ylamide; and

6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid pyridin-2-ylamide.

19. The compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid (5-methyl-thiazol-2-yl)-amide;

6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid (4-methyl-thiazol-2-yl)-amide;

6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid (5-chloro-thiazol-2-yl)-amide;

6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid (5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-amide; and

{2-[(6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carbonyl)-amino]-thiazol-4-yl}-acetic acid ethyl ester.

20. The compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid (5-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid (5-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide; and

6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide.